

HL5001 – Madness in Film & Literature

AY2021-2022 Semester 2

Course Syllabus

General Information

Lecture: Thursday - 11.30 AM - 14.20 PM

Instructor: Dr. Sheersha Perera

Contact: Email: sheersha.perera@ntu.edu.sg

Course Aims

This course will examine how madness has been presented and interpreted in selected works of literature and films, investigating how social institutions and the arbitrary nature of language can shape our understanding of mental disorders. Through close reading of literary and visual narratives, students will look at ways of how madness can function as a means of social commentary that challenges established perceptions of mental illness, whether it is through subversion, biological disorder, metaphor, or perspective.

Assessment

Component	Weighting	Team/Individual
1. Final Examination (TBA)	50%	Individual
2. Quizzes X 2 (week 4 & 7)	40%	Individual
3. Weekly Blog/ Class Participation on the topic (week 1 to 12)	10%	Individual
Total:	100%	

Description of Assessment Components:

Blog/Class Participation:

A short Paragraph on the weekly film/literature in focus (**This will be set up on BB**)

- If it is a week with a film, focus on the Mise-en-scène of a significant scene in the film that implies or discusses 'madness'.
- If it is a week focusing on literature ... discuss a quote that implies or discusses 'madness' in this piece of literature.

You are highly encouraged to participate actively during lecture and tutorial sessions. Your Attendance in the Lectures and Tutorials are compulsory and failure to attend classes will affect your ability to participate and contribute effectively during discussions and class exercises/tasks. **(10%)**

Closed-Book Quiz 1: You are to complete an online quiz based on the content covered in the lectures, the weekly readings, and the films. Students will have 35 MINUTES to complete the quiz. This quiz will focus on content covered from week 1 to week 3. **(20%)**

Closed-Book Quiz 2: You are to complete an online quiz based on the content covered in the lectures, the weekly readings, and the films. Students will have 35 MINUTES to complete the quiz. This quiz will focus on content covered from week 4 to week 6. **(20%)**

Final Examination (TBA): (50%)

Films, Readings and References

Grey Gardens (1975)
Shutter Island (2010)
The Babadook (2014)
The Joker (2019)
Death in Gunj (2017)
Black Swan (2010)
Gone Girl (2014)
Raise the Red Lantern (1991)
That Summer (2017)
The Yellow Wallpaper (1892)
The Bell Jar (1963)
Girl, Interrupted (1993)
Fight Club (1996)

Course Policies

Screenings: (Under Covid-19 restrictions)

There is an assigned feature film screening for some weeks of this course. IT IS MANDATORY THAT YOU WATCH THE ASSIGNED FILM before the online class. This is to ensure that you can engage in the class discussion and exercises based on the film of the week.

Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions the films will not be screened on campus as part of the lecture, as done previously.

If possible, all the films in the screening list should be appreciated on a TV screen (not the computer monitor) to fully understand and catch all the signs/references/nuances.

Due to the availability of limited copies of each film in the library, I strongly suggest/advise you to get a DVD of the films or access to the films online, as you would with a required textbook.

1. General

You are expected to complete all assigned pre-class readings and activities, attend all seminar classes punctually and take all scheduled assignments and tests by due dates. You are expected to take responsibility to follow up with course notes, assignments and course related announcements for seminar sessions they have missed. You are expected to participate in all seminar discussions and activities.

2. Absenteeism

Absence from class without a valid reason will affect your overall course grade. Valid reasons include falling sick supported by a medical certificate and participation in NTU's approved activities supported by an excuse letter from the relevant bodies.

If you miss a lecture, you must inform the course instructor via email prior to the start of the class.

Academic Integrity

Good academic work depends on honesty and ethical behaviour. The quality of your work as a student relies on adhering to the principles of academic integrity and to the NTU Honour Code, a set of values shared by the whole university community. Truth, Trust and Justice are at the core of NTU's shared values.

As a student, it is important that you recognize your responsibilities in understanding and applying the principles of academic integrity in all the work you do at NTU. Not knowing what is involved in maintaining academic integrity does not excuse academic dishonesty. You need to actively equip yourself with strategies to avoid all forms of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, academic fraud, collusion and cheating. If you are uncertain of the definitions of any of these terms, you should go to the [academic integrity website](#) for more information. Consult your instructor(s) if you need any clarification about the requirements of academic integrity in the course.

Weekly Schedule

*** There may be partial changes on readings and screenings to meet the level and interest of students. The revised version of syllabus will be uploaded to NTULearn when it happens.*

Week	Topic	Readings/Films/ Activities
Week 1	Introduction to module	Grey Gardens (1975)
Week 2	Definitions of Madness	Shutter Island (2010)
Week 3	Gender and Hysteria	The Yellow Wallpaper (1892)
Week 4	Exploring the Depths of Madness	The Babadook (2014)
Week 5	Gender, Madness, and Melancholy	The Bell Jar (1963)
Week 6	Madness and Cinematization	The Joker (2019)
Week 7	Race, Colonialization and The Other	Death in the Gunj (2017)
	RECESS WEEK	
Week 8	Defining Reality	Girl, Interrupted (1993)
Week 9	Art and Madness	Black Swan (2010)
Week 10	Criminality and Deviance	Fight Club (1996)
Week 11	Constructed Realities	Gone Girl (2014)
Week 12	Depths of Madness	Raise the Red Lantern (1991)
Week 13	The course wrap-up!	That Summer (2017)

Application for Short Leave of Absence

Students must seek the Schools' approval for short leave of absence if they cannot attend classes on the following occasions:

- a) On days when there are laboratory sessions
- b) On days when assessments (e.g. quizzes or tests) are conducted during classes
- c) On any other occasions that tutor(s) or lecturer(s) deem as compulsory for students' attendance.

For the applications to be considered, they must be submitted with supporting documents to the respective Schools at least 7 working days in advance.

Application for leave on the following grounds will not be approved:

- Returning to home country during festive periods e.g. Chinese New Year, Hari Raya, etc.
- Participating in activities (in and outside campus) organized by student bodies during the hours when students are required to attend class

Students should not go on leave until formal approval has been given.

Medical Leave

Students who are absent on medical grounds on occasions (a) – (c) must submit a copy of their medical certificate (MC) to the School not later than 7 working days after the medical leave.

Students whose family/household member has acute respiratory illness, should stay at home to reduce the risk of community transmission, and submit a copy of the MC of the family/ household member instead by the same deadline.

Otherwise, they will be deemed as absent and will be given zero mark for any test or quiz or assessment component that they missed.

Important Note:

- Students are to retain their original MC for 1 year for verification when necessary.
- The University only recognises medical certificates issued in Singapore by Medical Practitioners registered with the Singapore Medical Council or Dental Officers registered with the Singapore Dental Council.

Compassionate Leave

Students will be granted leave in the event of the demise of an immediate family member (defined to include parents, parents-in-law, spouse, children, siblings and grandparents).

Leave of absence on compassionate ground will be granted within 7 days of the death, and inclusive of Saturday, Sunday and Public Holiday, and on the day of the funeral.

Application Process

Students are to download and complete the short leave form, and submit this with the supporting document(s) to their home School within the stipulated timeframe.

If they had missed an assessment (e.g. quizzes or tests), they should additionally send a scanned copy of the supporting document(s) via email on the same day as the session missed. The course instructor may contact them to arrange for another session, if required.

Students must contact their School if they do not receive the outcome of their leave application via their NTU email address, after 5 working days.